

# Standards of Public Land Health

## Evaluation of 62040 ARGONNE Allotment

[ 02/08/2011 ]

The Roswell Field Office conducted rangeland health assessments at 1 study site within 62040 ARGONNE. The assessments looked at the Soil/Site Stability, Hydrologic Function and Biotic Integrity indicators within the vicinity of each study site. Existing monitoring data was incorporated into and in support of the field assessment. The summary of each assessment is attached and shown in the following table.

Study Area or Assessment Area	UPLAND			BIOTIC			RIPARIAN		
	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet	Meets	Monitor an Indicator	Does Not Meet
62040-IDSU-A047	X			X			N/A		

Twenty-two (22) indicators for Rangeland Health were evaluated for the public land on the Argonne allotment #62040. Ten (10) of these assessed soil site stability, 11 hydrologic function and 13 addressed biotic integrity. These qualitative assessments in conjunction with previous data collected on one location within the allotment were utilized to make rangeland health determinations. This allotment is in the "C" (custodial) management category due to small amounts of public land present.

This allotment contains 240 acres of public land. The study is located on a Hills CP-3 ecological site. A majority of the indicators were rated at "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" departure from the ecological site descriptions except for the indicators - Functional/Structural Groups and Invasive Plants. Both of these indicators were rated as a "Moderate" degree of departure from the ecological site description due to the level of juniper or cedar present.

**Recommendations:** With the majority of the indicators falling in the "None to Slight" or "Slight to Moderate" category, this allotment is rated as "Meeting" the standard for Rangeland Health. Continue the rangeland monitoring studies to insure that proper stocking rates are maintained and that the perennial grass cover and good plant composition remains.

RFOs Upland and Biotic Standard Assessment Summary Worksheet						
SITE 62040-IDSU-A047						
Legal Land Desc	NWSE 13 0070N 0170E Meridian 23		Acreage		240	
Ecosite	070CY106NM HILLS CP-3		Photo Taken		Y	
Watershed	13060002020 PINTADA					
Observers	ORTEGA & TEAM		Observation Date		02/08/2011	
County Soil Survey	NM019 GUADALUPE		Soil Var/Taxad			
Soil Map Unit	089		Soil Taxon Name		CLOVIS	
Texture Class	NM019 L		Soil Phase		CLOVIS-PASTURA	
Texture Modifier	NM019 LOAM					
Observed Avg Annual Precipitation			Observed Avg Growing Season Precipitation			
NOAA Annual Precipitation	0		NOAA Growing Season Precipitation		0	
NOAA Avg Annual Precipitation	0		NOAA Avg Growing Season Precipitation		0	
Disturbances and Animal Use:	No stock on the allotment in 2010/2011					
<b>Part 2. Attributes and Indicators</b>						
		Departure from Ecological Site Description/Ecological Reference Areas				
Attribute	Indicators	Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S H	Rills					X
Comments:						
S H	Water Flow Patterns					X
Comments:						
S H	Pedestals and/or Terracettes					X
Comments:						
S H	Bare Ground					X
Comments:						
S H	Gullies				X	
Comments:	stable condition					

S	Wind-scoured, Blowouts, and/or Deposition Areas					X
Comments:						
H	Litter Movement					X
Comments:						
S H B	Soil Surface Resistance to Erosion				X	
Comments:	Soil is erodible, near large bluff, water flow is high					
S H B	Soil Surface Loss or Degradation					X
Comments:						
H	Plant Community Composition and Distribution Relative to Infiltration and Runoff					X
Comments:	plenty of grass cover					
S H B	Compaction Layer					X
Comments:						
B	Functional/Structural Groups			X		
Comments:	juniper and cedar					
B	Plant Mortality/Decadence					X
Comments:						
H B	Litter Amount					X
Comments:						
B	Annual Production					X
Comments:	80 to 100% of expected level of production					
B	Invasive Plants			X		
Comments:	juniper & cedar					
B	Reproductive Capability of Perennial Plants					X
Comments:						
S	Physical/Chemical/Biological Crusts					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Habitat					X
Comments:						
B	Wildlife Populations			X		
Comments:	Rancher has noticed a decrease in the local deer population					

B	Special Status Species Habitat					
Comments:	Not applicable					
B	Special Status Species Populations					
Comments:	Not applicable					
<b>Part 3. Summary</b>						
A. Indicator Summary - Each of the indicators are associated with one or more of the attributes below. An indicator is placed in a category (columns) above and summed for each of the Standard Attributes.						
Standard Attribute		Extreme	Moderate to Extreme	Moderate	Slight to Moderate	None to Slight
S	Soil	0	0	0	2	8
H	Hydrologic	0	0	0	2	9
B	Biotic	0	0	3	1	7
B. Attribute Summary. In this table, the Extreme and Extreme to Moderate columns in the table above are merged for the <i>Does not Meet</i> column, Moderate becomes <i>May Need More Info</i> , and Slight to Moderate and None to Slight merge to form the <i>Meets</i> columns. Values from the table are summarized below. Space is provided for rationale of the determination. This space should most certainly be used when the determination by the ID team conflicts with the summarized values. Provide the sources of information that lead to the determination. X out the appropriate box for each attribute to denote final agreed upon determination by the ID team.						
Attribute	Rationale	Does Not Meet	May Need More Info	Meets		
Soil		0	0	10		
Hydrologic		0	0	11		
Biotic		0	3	8		
Site Notes: All expected grass species are present.						

# **Determination of Public Land (Rangeland) Health for 62040 ARGONNE**

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the New Mexico Standards for Public Land Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (dated January 2001) adopted three Standards for Public Land Health. These are (1) Upland sites Standard, (2) Biotic Communities, including native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard and (3) Riparian Sites Standard.

The ROD also established a process for the BLM Field Offices for the implementation. Through a public participation process, the Roswell Field Office developed and adopted indicators to use in conjunction with existing monitoring data to assess these standards.

Field assessment worksheets and other available data that evaluate the local indicators were completed for this allotment. Based on the assessments, it is my determination that the public land within the Argonne allotment, #62040, meets the Upland Sites Standard and (2) Biotic Communities, including native, Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species Standard. There are no public land Riparian areas on this allotment, therefore this standard was not addressed.

/s/ J. Howard Parman .  
Assistant Field Manager

03/29/2011  
Date